

# Best Management Practices

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



## Bachman's Sparrow

*Aimophila aestivalis*

Common name • Bachman's Sparrow

Scientific name • *Aimophila aestivalis*

State status • Endangered

### Ecology

Missouri is the northwesternmost portion of the Bachman's sparrows range. Birds migrate north to breed in Missouri between mid-March and late April. Females will lay as many as three clutches of eggs in one breeding season. Incubation is 12-14 days long, and young leave the nest after only 10 days, before they are able to fly. Bachman's sparrows forage on the ground for insects and for seeds of herbaceous plants and pines. They typically nest and forage in glades, open pinewoods, and overgrown grassy fields with scattered shrubs and trees.

### Reasons for Decline

Historically, Bachman's sparrows occupied glades and open pinewoods in many areas in southern Missouri. Their population has diminished mainly because of the logging of pine forests in the early 1900s. Succession of savannas and glades to dense, woody areas because of fire suppression and invasion by cedars into glades have also drastically reduced available habitat.

### Specific Recommendations

Bachman's sparrows prefer areas with thick undergrowth of grasses and sparse woody vegetation. Due to succession, this type of habitat is often ephemeral (temporary), so potential and existing areas should be protected and managed. A burn or thinning schedule should be developed to help maintain and create habitat.

→ Development projects should be avoided in core areas of open, mature pine forests; trees should be thinned occasionally to allow for growth of replacement trees.

→ Minimize impacts on pine savannas; conduct moderate to heavy thinning of middle-aged pine plantations.

→ Conduct controlled burns no less than every three years in areas of potential sparrow habitat, especially in areas where pine savanna restoration is possible and in glades, to rid areas of woody vegetation.

→ Avoid extensive ground disturbance activities, such as wind rowing and roller chopping.

### Information Contacts

For further information regarding construction projects in glades, pine forests, and fields, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation  
Policy Coordination Section  
P.O. Box 180  
2901 W. Truman Blvd  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180  
Telephone: 573/751-4115

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176  
Telephone: 573/526-3315

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
700 Federal Building  
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896  
Telephone: 816/983-3990

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division  
901 North 5th Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Telephone: 913/551-7307

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services Field Office  
608 E. Cherry Street, Room 200  
Columbia, MO 65201  
Telephone: 573/876-1911

### Disclaimer

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